

fields of farmers, and some scattered trees, it is really beautiful to look upon, far off we can see the beautiful Alleghenies. As we come to the bottom of the mountain we come into the settlement of Edray, which is the site of the early settlement and fort of Thomas Drinnon.

Finally we come to the town of Marlinton, which is the county seat of Pocahontas County. The first settlements in Pocahontas County were made by Stephen Sewell and Jacob Marlin in 1749 at Marlinton, this was perhaps the first English settlement west of the Alleghenies.

We travel on, and pass through the Monongahela National Forest, and we find the Watoga State Park near the Sececa Trail. The National Forest also includes the Cranberry Glades, comprising several hundred acres on which are found one of the most varied collections of wild plants known anywhere to botanists. Included among them are reindeer moss and other vegetation found only on the tundras of the Arctic circle.

As Stephen Sewell traveled along the old Seneca Trail he camped at Millpoint in 1750. Here is the site of Fort Day, built in 1774. Here James E. A. Gibbs invented the chain-stitch sewing machine. To the north, Indians killed James and John Bridger, pioneer settlers.

We then come to Hillsboro, where General Averell camped before the Battle of Droop Mountain and after his raid to Salem, Virginia, in 1863. Settlements were made in the vicinity in the 1760's by John McNeel and the Kinnisons. This is the birthplace of Pearl Buck, the author of "Good Earth," and other stories of Chinese life.

We now travel up the winding trail, which is Droop

Mountain where General W. W. Averell, November 6, 1863, defeated Confederate troops under General John Echols and Colonel W. P. Thompson. After the war between the States, Thompson became a wealthy railroad builder and returned here to wed Mary Evaline Moffett within sight of whose home he had been engaged in his most important battle. We find a beautiful park on Droop Mountain, in memory of the battle fought there.

On the other side of Droop Mountain, we leave Pocahontas and enter into Greenbrier, the old trail winds on, and it is the same trail which the Indians traveled on many years ago.

--From West Virginia Historic and Scenic Highway Markers,  
Published by the State Road Commission of W. Va. 1937.

Marlin & Sewell were the first settlers in Pocahontas County, they came to this state from Virginia. They traveled by foot from Stauntan, Virginia to West Virginia on foot, they came through the Alleghenies, on a trail which was traveled by the Indians, and other ~~white~~ white settlers who had ventured, that far inland. they came by the settlement of Frost, of course this little village wasn't here then, but today it stands. They then came on down the trail to Huntersville, which was the first County Seat of Pocahontas, but today Marlinton is the County Seat. They finally traveled on down the trail into the place which is called Marlinton today. They stayed in a hollow tree here, later other settlers used this trail to enter into Pocahontas County.

The Greenbrier River must have been a source of travel for the early settlers, and the Indians, it winds along the valley. and since in those days the settlers more or less followed a river to travel by, they must have entered into the county by this means. The Indians probably used canoes on this river, and the early settlers probably had crude boats. The county Seat of Pocahontas today is located on the Greenbrier, and it is a beautiful site.

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-8-

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